



April 25: Tegucigalpa Non-Immigration Visa Webchat -- View Transcript

04-25-2008 09:59:11

U.S. Embassy Tegucigalpa: Welcome to the Embassy's webchat on non-immigrant visas. We look forward to hearing from you. You may submit questions now or during the live event beginning at 3:00 p.m. later today.

04-25-2008 15:03:40

Charles Lobdell: Thank you for joining us for this online discussion on non-immigrant visas. Some of you posted questions already while others I hope are writing more questions for us to answer. Before we get to the questions, I would like to remind you that this discussion is for non-immigrant visas only. If you would like to live in the United States permanently, you need an immigrant visa.

The easiest way to learn about non-immigrant visas and the visa process is to visit the embassy website at <http://honduras.usembassy.gov> where we explain the different types of visas and the process for obtaining a visa.

If you have questions about non-immigrant visas in general or the visa process, please use your PIN from Banco Atlantida and contact the Call Center. In emergency situations we can be reached by e-mail at tggniv@state.gov. If you have a question about a specific case, please include the full name of the visa applicant and the date of birth so we can find the information you are seeking.

We're sorry, but for privacy reasons we cannot answer questions regarding why a specific visa application was denied.

04-25-2008 15:04:49

Charles Lobdell: Gracias por acompañarnos en este foro en línea acerca de las visas de no inmigrante. Algunos de ustedes enviaron con anticipación sus preguntas, y esperamos que otras personas igualmente nos estén escribiendo más interrogantes que podamos contestarles. Antes que comencemos con las preguntas, me gustaría recordarles que este foro es únicamente para visas de no inmigrantes. Si usted está interesado en vivir en los Estados Unidos permanentemente, usted necesitará una visa de inmigrante.

La manera más fácil de aprender acerca de las visas de no inmigrante y del proceso de aplicación de visas, es visitar el sitio en Internet de la embajada en <http://honduras.usembassy.gov> donde explicamos los diferentes tipos de visas y el proceso de obtención de una visa. Si usted tiene preguntas generales acerca de visas de no inmigrantes o del proceso de aplicación de visa, por favor use su PIN y llame el Call Center. También puede contactarnos por correo electrónico a la dirección tggniv@state.gov. Si usted tiene alguna pregunta sobre un caso específico, por favor incluya el nombre completo del solicitante de la visa, y la fecha de nacimiento para que podamos encontrar la información que necesita.

Lamentablemente, por razones de privacidad no podemos contestar preguntas concernientes sobre por qué una visa específica fue rechazada.

Ahora a las preguntas.

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elizabeth2: mi madre tiene 64 años de edad vive en Honduras yo soy ciudadana americana quiero invitarla que venga a visitarme que documentos necesito para aplicar para su visa de no inmigrante?

Charles Lobdell: Debe presentar cualquier documento que demuestre la estabilidad económica, fuertes lazos al país y que garanticen el regreso a Honduras después de una corta temporada en los Estados Unidos. De acuerdo a nuestra Ley de Inmigración, la decisión del Cónsul se basará en la estabilidad del solicitante en su país de residencia, no en invitaciones o documentos de soporte de parte de amigos o familiares que residan en los Estados Unidos. Preferiblemente, deben presentarse documentos originales.

NOTA: Sus parientes o contactos comerciales en Estados Unidos no deben enviar cartas de invitación o documentos de soporte económico directamente a la Embajada, ya que es imposible guardar esos documentos hasta su cita. Todos los documentos de este tipo deben ser entregados directamente al solicitante para que los pueda presentar en el momento de su entrevista.

Documentos presentados como evidencia de empleo/estudios/negocio propio:

Carta de la empresa en la cual conste: Cargo que ocupa, tiempo de servicio, salario mensual y/o comisiones y tiempo de vacaciones. Recibos de pago de salarios recientes. Carné de la universidad con su

respectiva constancia. Constitución de sociedad, Permiso de Operación y/o Declaración de Comerciante Individual.

Documentos presentados como evidencia de solvencia económica:

Constancia bancaria que especifique saldos y promedios. Certificado de Registro ante la Cámara de Comercio. (si tiene negocio) y/o Permiso de Operación Municipal. Declaraciones de impuestos del negocio, recibos y/o contratos. Certificados de depósito a plazo fijo o de títulos de valor.

Documentos presentados como evidencia de vínculos familiares:

Certificados de matrimonio. Si tiene hijos, partida de nacimiento.

Basado en la entrevista, si el oficial consular aprueba su visa, su pasaporte será entregado dos a tres días hábiles después de la entrevista a través de Cargo Expreso.

La persona a quien la visa le es denegada será informada en el mismo momento de la entrevista, y se le devolverá el pasaporte y demás documentos con una carta explicando la razón del rechazo.

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Ahshousha: Dear sir, I was illegally present in the United States and departed voluntarily. Am I eligible for a visa?

Charles Lobdell: It depends on how long you were illegal in the United States. If you were there for more than 1 year, then, under law, there is a 10-year ban on receiving another visa. Even if you were in the U.S. for less than 1 year, the interviewing officer will have to consider your illegal stay in determining if you have sufficient ties to your home country.

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Ailsa: We hope to be granted a B1/B2 visa to go on vacation. How can we best be prepared?

Charles Lobdell: How to Obtain an Appointment for a Visa Interview: The applicant should go to any branch of Banco Atlántida and pay the application/processing fee. The fee is US\$131 or the Lempira equivalent for each applicant. (If your payment is in dollars, you will be charged an additional amount based on the exchange rate). Since May 17, 2007 we have our Call Center available, and it is through

them that you can obtain an appointment. You pay an additional fee of US\$13 at the bank, which will obtain you a PIN number to be used when you call our Call Center to make your appointment. Each PIN number is for immediate families of up to 5 members. If your immediate family number is greater than 5, you will have to buy an additional PIN number. If your previous visa was for multiple entries, valid for one or more years and is current or recently expired (within 12 months), the Call Center will schedule you for a revalidation. If you have never had a visa, or if your visa was valid for less than one year, the Call Center will schedule you for a first time appointment. Although some companies offer services to help with your application, no one can guarantee you a visa; only a Consular Officer in the U.S. Embassy can make this decision. Applicants must also fill out a Non-immigrant visa application (DS-156) (required in electronic format) and men between ages 16 and 45 must fill out the Supplemental Non-Immigrant Visa Application Form (DS-157). We recommend that applicants fill out the forms personally, because the applicant is ultimately responsible for the information contained therein.

Suggested Documents for the Visa Application Please present documents that establish your family, economic, and social obligations to Honduras that will obligate you to return to Honduras. U.S. law also requires that the applicant's situation in his or her home country be the basis for the decision on the visa. For this reason, we do not base our decisions on invitations or affidavits of support from friends or relatives in the United States. Suggested documents include: Tax Documents, Receipts, and/or Contracts which establish the stability of your business in Honduras. Job letter from your employer or school registration with specific dates of work/attendance. A letter from your bank, including current and average balances, and your bankbooks. Checking account statements for the past three months. The "Constitución de Sociedad," "Permiso de Operación," or "Declaración de Comerciante Individual" of any business you own in Honduras. Previous passports. Passports of immediate family members who have traveled to the United States. In cases of lost or stolen passports, an Immigration Report from the Honduran Immigration Office ("Movimiento Migratorio") with your entrances and departures, plus the police report concerning the lost passport.

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IMInterested: I was denied a tourist visa last year...how long do I have to wait before I can apply again?

Charles Lobdell: There is no set time period for applying again. However, we recommend that you wait until your economic situation

has improved or your ties to your home country have strengthened. If your situation has not changed then odds are you will receive the same answer to your first visa application.

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Kashif2: I've been living in the UK for many years with my family. Do I need to return to my home country to apply for a visa to the US?

Charles Lobdell: Yes, however, you must be able to show significant ties to the country you are residing in. This generally may include a long duration of stay in present country, official residency, financial ties to resident country, family residing with you in resident country, etc.

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Sylvi79: I would like to work in the USA...what do I have to do to be able to work there?

Charles Lobdell: A company in the US would have to file a petition for an H visa. In these cases the company in the US for which you plan to work for would make this petition and take care for most of the petition process. They would notify your recruiting agent or you personally and send you the approved petition and documents. If it is an H1 visa, you would have to make the appointment with the Consulate yourself through our Call Center and bring all documentation, if you are applying for an H2 visa, the company will make the appointment for you and you will be notified when the date of your appointment is. Visa types depend on the kind of job you will be performing in the US, your petition will have the visa type specified.

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hope2go2: I want to travel with a minor child. What documents are needed to apply for their visa? What should be done if the parents can't be present at the interview?

Charles Lobdell: Minor children need to come with both parents for the interview. If the parents are unable to accompany the minor they must show any document to explain the reasons: such as a medical statement, absent because a trip out of country, etc., so the Consular Officer can determine if the visa can be issued or not. The documents should be from the parents or the persons legally responsible for the child and, in addition, a birth certificate of the minor is required.

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Douglass: Why does it cost so much to apply for a tourist visa? And why don't you get your money back if you don't get the visa? That doesn't seem fair to me.

Charles Lobdell: The cost of \$131 is for processing the application and the interview, not for the visa itself, and in fact does not cover all the costs. The money received from visa interviews is used to process the visa, process all related security checks on the applicant, and to comply with other US law and security regulations that have been put in place since September 11, 2001. Sorry, the fee is nonrefundable as the costs for the processing and interviewing are incurred by the Department of State whether or not your visa application is approved.

04-25-2008 15:43:27

CarlosO: Buenas Tardes, me gustaría poder aplicar a un empleo en EEUU, ¿cuáles serían los trámites necesarios para poder aplicar?

Charles Lobdell: La compañía en USA debe hacer una petición para que usted pueda trabajar para ellos. Las habilidades necesarias para obtener este trabajo dependerán de la compañía. Usted debe comunicarse con la compañía o hacerlo a través de un agente que haya determinado la compañía. Asimismo, la compañía es quien se hace cargo de todo el proceso de la petición. Una vez la petición es aprobada, la compañía le avisará por medio del agente reclutador o a usted personalmente y le enviará la petición aprobada (o copia en caso de su visa H2). Si su visa es H1, usted deberá hacer su propia cita con este Consulado y traer la documentación necesaria. En cambio, si su visa es H2, la compañía le avisará la fecha de su cita e igualmente deberá traer sus documentos y formularios. La petición que le envía la compañía especifica el tipo de visa para la cual usted necesitaría solicitar.

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cinyellfree: I have a letter of admission from an American university. What should I do next to ensure that I can continue my studies in the U.S.?

Charles Lobdell: Once you have gained admission to an educational institution, you must process your student visa. F-1 visas (academic or language studies) and M-1 visas (vocational studies) are to attend an educational institution and carry a full-time load of courses. It is very important that you apply for your visa with enough time in advance, we recommend a minimum one month before your travel plans. Also take into consideration that Embassies and Consulates can only issue student visas within a 120-day period in advance of the beginning of the course of study (noted in the I-20). For example, if your course of study begins September 1 and you present your application April 1, your visa application will be left pending until your visa can be issued around the beginning of June. You may proceed to apply for your student visa once you have received form I-20 A or B (Certificate of

Eligibility for Nonimmigrant (F-1) Student Status for Academic and Language Students) or form I-20M or N (Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant (M-1) Student Status for Vocational Students) sent to you by the educational institution you will attend. It is also very important to pay the SEVIS fee. Sometimes the educational institution will process the payment for you and will send the receipt along with the I-20, but if they have not sent it, it is your responsibility to pay the US\$100 fee. For more information and/or to make the payment go to these websites or see below: <http://www.ice.gov/sevis> and

www.fmjfee.com. These are the steps to apply for a student visa:

- Pay the Consular Fee at any branch of Banco Atlántida (show your passport and it must have a minimum six month validity remaining). Since May 17, 2007 we have our Call Center available, and it is through them that you can obtain an appointment. Your appointment fee is US\$131, which can be paid at any Banco Atlantida branch. Also you pay an additional fee of US\$13, and you will obtain a PIN number to be used with our Call Center and they will give you your appointment date.

- All student visa applicants must present the following documents: - Passport with a minimum six month validity remaining. If you need additional information about the requirements according to your nationality, please go to the following website:

http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/without/without_1990.htm

I - Form I-20A/B or I-20M/N issued by an educational institution. - Form I-901 (SEVIS Fee Application) and the corresponding receipt or evidence of payment. - Non-Immigrant Visa Application Form DS-156 in the electronic format. - Form DS-158 (Contact Information and Work History for Non-Immigrant Visa Applicant). - Men between the ages of 16 and 45 must also present Form DS-157 (Supplemental Non-Immigrant Visa Application). - Recent 2x2 inch photo taken with a white background, no glasses. - If the applicant is a minor (under 21), you must present Birth Certificate. If the applicant has never had a US visa, he/she must come with either parents or legal guardian (with proof of custody). Parents or legal guardian must present national ID cards, passports, letters of employment, bank letters and property documents. Finally, you should be prepared to present the following documents: Transcripts and/or diplomas from previously attended educational institutions; scores from standardized tests required by the educational institution you will attend (TOEFL, SAT, GRE, GMAT, etc.); financial evidence that shows sufficient funds to cover tuition and living expenses during the period of intended study (from parents, scholarship, sponsor, etc); previous passports.

Charles Lobdell: We've had a number of questions regarding what to do if your visa is lost or stolen. If you have lost your passport with visa or had it stolen, please follow the following steps: Notify the U.S. Consular section of the lost passport via fax (504) 237-1792 with a copy of the visa if possible, your full name, date of birth, national ID number, and phone numbers in case we need to contact you. Notify the closest Honduran Immigration office of the loss and request an Immigration Report from the Honduran Immigration Office ("Movimiento Migratorio") of all your entrances and departures from Honduras since 1998. Submit an official report of the loss to the police. Reapply for a visa interview, and at the personal interview present the police report and the Immigration Report from the Honduran Immigration Office ("Movimiento Migratorio") plus the rest of the supporting documents. If you need further information please contact the Non-immigrant visa section at tggniv@state.gov

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CarlosO: Recently I was granted a limited 1 year visa to go to a conference for work. Our company was not able to travel but hopes to do so in the future. Do I need to renew the visa? What should I do if we need to stay in the U.S. longer than we initially expect?

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Charles Lobdell: Thank you for participate in our webchat, if your visa is expired certainly you will need a new visa to travel in the future, and the process will be the same as you did the first time. Only B1/B2 visas with long term could be revalidated. If your visa was limited then you would request a new one through the normal process. Once you enter US you could stay there during the time that the Immigration Officer allows you in your I-94 form. If your visa expires during you are in US it doesn't matter, remember that once you enter US, the Immigration Officer is the one who will give you the permission to stay there.

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franky: I am an American citizen who was recently engaged to a foreigner. I'd like my fiancé to come to the U.S. to meet my family and possibly arrange our wedding in the U.S. How can I get her to the U.S.?

Charles Lobdell: You have two options. If you and your finance will live permanently in the United States, your best bet is to apply for an immigrant visa so that your fiancé can obtain residency. If you will stay in your fiancé's home country, then your fiancé can apply for a tourist visa but she must demonstrate that she has sufficient ties to

her home country that she will return after the visit to the United States.

04-25-2008 16:00:08

marloncantillano: I am a Honduran working in the US. How does one goes about getting an appointment to go to the Embassy in Honduras? Do you have an affiliated bank to pay for the interview and to obtain a pin Number? Is there an easier way for people who are in the US and can't travel to their home countries to renew their visa from the U.S?

Charles Lobdell: If you are currently living in the U.S. you can ask a family member to buy a PIN for you at any branch of Banco Atlantida. Once you know your PIN number, you can call telephone number (504) 246-8472 from the US, and schedule the appointment yourself. When you come to Honduras, you can buy the MRV fee, also at any branch of Banco Atlantida.

Also, here is the information regarding our new visa application process for you to consider:

How to Obtain an Appointment for a Visa Interview: The applicant should go to any branch of Banco Atlántida and pay the application/processing fee. The fee is US\$131 or the Lempira equivalent for each applicant. (If your payment is in dollars, you will be charged an additional amount based on the exchange rate). Since May 17, 2007 we have our Call Center available, and it is through them that you can obtain an appointment. You pay an additional fee of US\$13 at the bank, which will obtain you a PIN number to be used when you call our Call Center to make your appointment. Each PIN number is for immediate families of up to 5 members. If your immediate family number is greater than 5, you will have to buy an additional PIN number. If your previous visa was for multiple entries, valid for one or more years and is current or recently expired (within 12 months), the Call Center will schedule you for a revalidation. If you have never had a visa, or if your visa was valid for less than one year, the Call Center will schedule you for a first time appointment.

04-25-2008 16:02:37

Charles Lobdell: Thank you for joining us for this online discussion on non-immigrant visas. As a reminder the easiest way to learn about non-immigrant visas and the visa process is to visit the embassy website at <http://honduras.usembassy.gov> where we explain the different types of visas and the process for obtaining a visa

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Charles Lobdell: Lo sentimos mucho por no haber podido incluir todas sus preguntas en este momento, pero en el futuro cercano tendremos otro foro de discusión (webchat) para poder abarcar sus interrogantes. ¡Gracias por su participación!
